

Dear Joint Ways & Means Committee Members:

My name is Jonathan Brandt and I have been a board member of The Shedd Institute Board of Directors for the last 3 years as well as a long-time patron.

I ask that you strongly consider The Shedd's request for support from the capital construction lottery fund to create an accessible entrance to this antiquated 100-year-old facility. Everyone from youngsters carrying a tuba to ticket buyers and wheelchair-bound senior citizens would benefit immensely from this entrance and its accompanying elevator. Better access would increase participation among music students and concertgoers alike.

After years of great effort and significant investment, The Shedd Institute has become a tremendous asset to the community. There is great demand for its services and these improvements will further magnify its highly positive impact on the region.

I should add that The Shedd staff and board have achieved considerable success in raising funds for previous major building improvements totaling over \$15 million. This demonstrates our ability to effectively match the lottery funds we seek.

Please help us realize this important improvement that will serve generations far into the future.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Brandt